

Message Text

SECRET

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E.O. 11652: XGDS-1

TAGS: PFOR, US, JO, XF

SUBJECT: TALK WITH KING

REF: STATE 132716

1. SAW KING BRIEFLY AT NOON JUNE 9 AND DELIVERED MESSAGE REFTEL. HE HAD BEEN IN AQABA AND THUS UNAVAILABLE FOR FEW DAYS FOLLOWING HIS RETURN FROM SAUDI ARABIA AND QATAR. ALSO SAW RIFAI BRIEFLY FOLLOWING TALK WITH KING AND GAVE HIM GIST OF MESSAGE AS INSTRUCTED. KING WAS GRATEFUL FOR YOUR FILL-IN. HE SAID THAT HE HAD HEARD FROM EGYPTIANS ALONG SIMILAR LINES. HE SEEMED HOPEFUL THAT SOMETHING COULD BEGIN AGAIN ON AN INTERIM STEP IN THE SINAI AND FELT HEARTENED AT PUBLISHED RESULTS OF ISRAELI CABINET MEETING LAST NIGHT WHICH POINTED IN SAME DIRECTION. HE ASKED AGAIN IF WE COULD DO ANYTHING IN MILITARY AREA FOR EGYPT AND I INDICATED THAT I HAD NOTHING FURTHER I COULD GIVE HIM.

2. TURNING TO HIS TRIP, HE PROVIDED ME WITH INFORMATION WHICH HAS ALREADY BEEN WELL COVERED IN EARLIER REPORTING. WILL COVER ONLY HIGHLIGHTS HERE.

3. SAUDI ARABIA: SAID TRIP WAS EXCELLENT. SAUDIS WILL COVER COSTS OF HAWK AND VULCAN WHICH WERE ONLY OUTLINED GENERALLY TO THEM BECAUSE OF A LACK OF SPECIFICS FROM US DUE TO FACT THAT NEW HAWK PRODUCTION CONTRACT

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IS STILL BE NEGOTIATED. CHIEF OF STAFF BIN SHAKER

WILL FOLLOW UP VISIT SHORTLY WITH ANOTHER TRIP TO RIYADH AND JORDANIANS WILL TELL SAUDIS THE COST OF HAWK BATTERIES FOR JORDAN WILL BE SAME AS FOR SAUDI ARABIA (WHICH IS ALSO AWAITING PRICE) WITH EXCEPTION OF ANY ADDITIONAL SPARES, TRAINING, ETC. KING SAID HE FELT THAT KING KHALID IS NOW MORE IN THE PICTURE, ALTHOUGH FAHD IS CLEARLY COMMANDING PERSONALITY IN SET-UP. SAW NO SIGNS OF DIVERGENCE AMONG THE PRINCES. KHALID PROMISED TO COME TO JORDAN DURING HIS FIRST TRIP ABROAD AS KING WHICH WILL BE PRIMARILY TO EGYPT.

4. QATAR: KING WAS WELL RECEIVED AND QATAR WILL PAY HALF OF THE HIGHEST ESTIMATED COST FOR AMMAN'S NEW INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT; UAE HAS PROMISED OTHER HALF.

5. UAE: FOREIGN MINISTER VISITED HERE DURING KING'S ABSENCE AND THEY MET BRIEFLY ON KING'S RETURN. UAE WANTS SOME MILITARY HELP. SHIEKH ZAYED IS WORRIED ABOUT AGGREGATE 30,000 MEN UNDER ARMS IN ALL OF THE SHIEKDOMS COMBINED AND WITH DIVERSE AND UNCOORDINATED LEADERSHIP. IN A PLAY TO BUILD UP FEDERAL FORCES, HE HAS GOTTEN RULERS TO AGREE TO AN ARAB STUDY MISSION BY KUWAIT, SAUDI ARABIA AND JORDAN. MOST PRIVATELY (AND KING SAYS HE CONSIDERS THIS POINT MOST SENSITIVE) UAE HAS TOLD KING THAT IT WANTS A JORDANIAN TO REPLACE UK OFFICER IN COMMAND OF ITS FORCES AND ALSO WANTS TO CUT DOWN NUMBER OF MEN UNDER ARMS IN UAE TO POINT WHERE THEY CAN COVER ADEQUATELY INTERNAL SECURITY NEEDS. KING ALREADY HAS CHOSEN OFFICER TO HEAD STUDY MISSION, HIS INSPECTOR GENERAL, MAJ GEN AWAD KHALDI. KHALDI IS A MOST COMPETENT AND ARTICULATE OFFICER AND KING SAYS HE HOPES THEREBY THAT JORDANIAN THINKING WILL DOMINATE TRIPARTITE STUDY. HE HAS ALSO CHOSEN POTENTIAL UAE COMMANDER AND WE WILL PROVIDE NAME AND BIOGRAPHY SEPARATELY. AFTER ASAD VISIT HERE, KING SAYS HE WILL GO TO UAE, OMAN (FOR LONG ENOUGH TO GET A GOOD LOOK AT THE SITUATION) AND POSSIBLY BAHRAIN.

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YM UAE-US AND UAE-IRAN RELATIONS: UAE UNHAPPY WITH IRAN DEALING WITH RULERS SEPARATELY AND KING WILL TALK WITH SHAH ABOUT THIS. UAE APPROACHED PM RIFAI SEPARATELY FOR HELP; UAE FOREIGN MINISTER WANTS TO COME TO US. RIFAI SAID THAT WHAT IT AMOUNTS TO IS A REQUEST FOR JORDANIAN HELP IN GETTING AN INVITATION TO VISIT. RIFAI AND I WILL FOLLOW UP ON ANY FURTHER SPECIFICS.

7. SYRIA: ASAD VISIT. KING SEEMS VERY RELAXED ABOUT ASAD'S COMING. SAYS THAT JORDAN HAS NOTHING SPECIAL ON ITS MIND AND THAT HE IS A LITTLE BIT EMBARRASSED BY ALL THE PUBLICITY BEING ATTACHED TO TRIP IN ARAB WORLD. HE INDICATED THAT SYRIANS HAVE SIGNALLED NOTHING SPECIAL TO TALK WITH HIM ABOUT AND TRIP IS BEING CAST IN CONTEXT OF "BROTHERLY" VISIT FOR FURTHER ARAB COORDINATIONNATION.
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